



### LABOUR MOBILITY, AUSTRALIA, DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1984 (PRELIMINARY)

**PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics*—contact Ms Gail Carters on Canberra (062) 52 6661 or any of our State offices.

*other inquiries including copies of publications*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

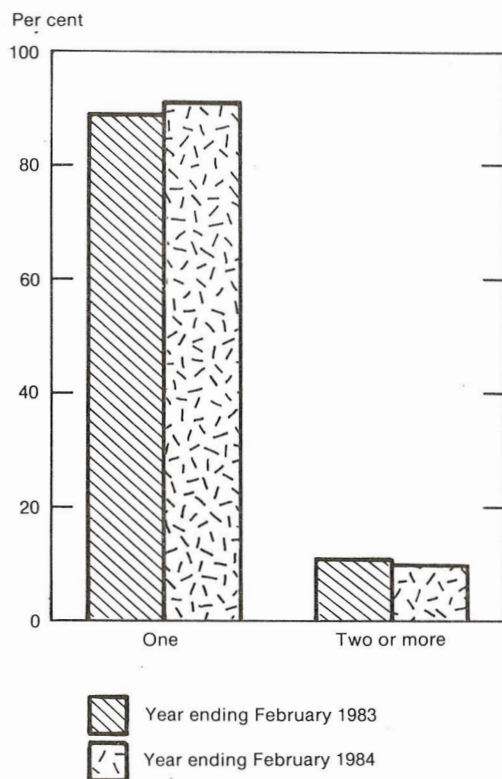
**MAIL INQUIRIES** *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

#### MAIN FEATURES

*Note: Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 20 following.*

**DIAGRAM 1. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR: NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS/BUSINESSES, FEBRUARY 1983 AND FEBRUARY 1984.**

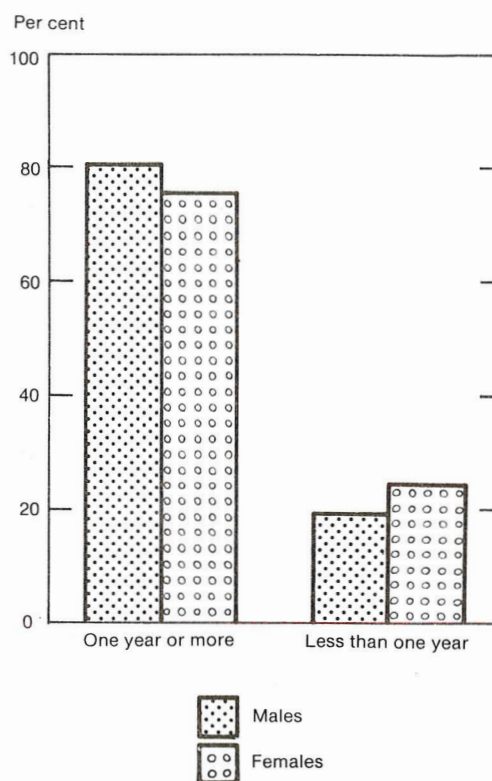
(Source of Data: Table 1)



Of the 7,183,900 persons who worked at some time during the year ending February 1984, 89.4 per cent (88.6 per cent during the year ending February 1983) had only one employer or business during the year, and 10.6 per cent (11.4 per cent in the previous year) had two or more employers or businesses during the year.

**DIAGRAM 2. PERSONS WHO HAD A JOB AT YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1984: TIME IN CURRENT JOB.**

(Source of Data: Table 2)



Of the 4,019,400 males who had a job at February 1984, 19.4 per cent (780,700) had held their current job for less than a year. For females this proportion was 24.5 per cent.

At February 1984, of the 6,459,300 persons who had jobs, 13.7 per cent had changed jobs during the year, 7.6 per cent had had no previous job during the year and 78.7 per cent had been in their current job for one year or more.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

In association with the February 1984 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia, persons aged fifteen years and over who had been employed at some time during the year up to the end of the week prior to interview in February 1984 were asked about their labour mobility during the period. Specific questions related to the duration of current job, whether respondents had changed jobs or not and the number of jobs held during the period.

2. During the two weeks beginning Monday 6 February, 1984, specially trained interviewers asked the questions of a sub-sample of 52,000 of the 72,000 respondents in the February labour force survey.

3. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in November 1972, have been published in *Labour Mobility, Australia* (6209.0).

4. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. Estimates shown are preliminary and may be revised. Further information which will be published as soon as possible is available on request.

### Scope

5. The survey includes all civilians aged fifteen years and over except:

- (a) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- (b) overseas residents in Australia;
- (c) dependants of non-Australian defence forces personnel stationed in Australia;
- (d) students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of jails, reformatories, etc.

6. The estimates relate to persons covered by the survey in February 1984. Because of emigration, deaths and other exits not all persons with labour force experience during the period were covered. Labour mobility may relate to experience outside Australia.

### Definitions

7. It is impractical to obtain information relating to a whole year which is strictly comparable with that obtained in the monthly labour force survey for which the reference period is one week. The definitions used in determining the labour force status of persons in the monthly survey depend on a detailed set of questions asked about a person's labour force activity during the reference period. For the survey of labour mobility a person is assigned to a labour force category for each of the weeks in the year on the basis of a more limited set of questions. It is for this reason that the terms *worked* and

*looked for work* are used in this survey rather than the rigidly defined terms *employed* and *unemployed* used in the monthly labour force survey.

8. Persons in the *labour force* are those persons who, for those weeks, reported having either worked or looked for work as defined in paragraphs 9 and 10.

9. Persons who *worked* are those persons who, for those weeks, reported having either worked or been on paid leave. Periods of one week or more on strike or time off without pay are excluded.

10. Persons who *looked for work* are those persons who, for those weeks, reported having been out of work and looking for a job.

11. Persons *out of the labour force* are those who, during any week, neither worked nor looked for work as defined in paragraphs 9 and 10.

12. For the purposes of the survey, a *job* is defined as:

- (a) employment as a wage or salary earner (or unpaid family helper) by a particular employer, in a particular locality; or
- (b) self-employment (with or without employees) in a particular locality.

13. *Locality*. In capital cities and major towns each suburb is considered to be a different locality.

14. A *change of job* may involve a change of employer without a change of job location; a change of location without a change of employer; or a change in both employer and location. For example, the movement of an employer's operations to premises in a different location would entail a change of job for employees who moved to the new location. Promotion or transfer of an employee which involves a move to premises in a different location would also constitute a change of job. It should be noted, however, that for a person who works at different sites for the same employer (for example, a construction worker), his base of operations (i.e. his employer's office, depot, yard, etc.) is considered to be his place of work.

15. Persons are classified as *married* if they are reported as being married (including de facto) and their spouse was a usual resident of the household at the time of the survey. The *not-married* category includes persons who have never married, or are separated, widowed or divorced, as well as those who, although reported as being married, did not have a spouse who usually lived in the household. For effects on estimates of marital status, see paragraph 19.

### Population benchmarks

16. Following the change in official population estimates to a place of usual residence basis after the 1981 Census, the population benchmarks used in this survey are compiled according to place of usual residence. For an explanation of the new conceptual basis of population estimates see *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

17. The change from 1976 Population Census based benchmarks to 1981 Population Census based benchmarks has had little effect on the movement in the estimates between the February 1983 and February 1984 surveys.

### Discontinuities in the series

18. The estimates for February 1983 and February 1984 are not strictly comparable with those obtained from previous surveys. The reference period for the February 1980 and prior surveys was the previous calendar year (e.g. 1 January to 31 December 1979). The reference period for the February 1981 and 1982 surveys was from the beginning of the previous February to the end of the week prior to interview. As interviews were conducted over the second and third week of February, the reference period could extend to 54 weeks. For the February 1983 and 1984 surveys the reference period is the 52 weeks up to the end of the week prior to interview. Due to the change in the reference period timing, some estimates, particularly those for groups who enter the labour force during the earlier months of the year (e.g. 15 to 19 year olds) will also be affected from February 1981 survey onwards.

19. Paragraph 15 outlines the definition of marital status now used in this survey. Consequently, estimates of marital status contained in this publication are not comparable with estimates published for this survey in previous years, which classified as married all respondents who reported that they were married or separated.

### Reliability of the estimates

20. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error*: since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*. More information about this topic will be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). A table of estimated standard errors for this survey follows these notes. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 25 per cent have not been shown in this publication, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable

uses. Although figures for these small components can, in some cases, be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable.

- (b) *non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

### Related publications

21. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly

*Labour Force Experience, Australia, During the Year Ending February 1983* (6206.0)

*Labour Mobility, Australia, During the Year Ending February 1983* (6209.0)

22. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the following few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

### Symbols and other usages

- \* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 20 above.

23. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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Acting Australian Statistician

## STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates		Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate		Persons	Per cent of estimate
4,500	1,100	24.4	200,000	5,900	2.9
6,000	1,300	21.7	500,000	8,250	1.6
10,000	1,650	16.5	1,000,000	10,400	1.0
20,000	2,250	11.3	2,000,000	13,000	0.7
50,000	3,400	6.8	5,000,000	17,050	0.3
100,000	4,500	4.5	10,000,000	20,550	0.2

**TABLE 1. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1984:  
SUMMARY OF LABOUR MOBILITY DURING THE YEAR**  
( ' 000)

	Married males	All males	Married females	All females	Persons
<b>Worked at some time during the year</b>	<b>2,843.5</b>	<b>4,352.6</b>	<b>1,689.2</b>	<b>2,831.3</b>	<b>7,183.9</b>
Number of employers/ businesses(a) during the year—					
1	2,590.8	3,883.5	1,563.8	2,541.8	6,425.4
2	204.8	364.9	104.1	230.5	595.4
3	33.3	68.2	16.7	42.8	111.0
4 and over	14.7	35.9	4.6	16.3	52.2
Had no job at February 1984	158.1	333.2	246.4	391.4	724.6
Had a job at February 1984	2,685.3	4,019.4	1,442.8	2,439.9	6,459.3
For one year or more in current job	2,289.5	3,238.6	1,160.0	1,843.3	5,081.9
For less than one year in current job	395.8	780.7	282.8	596.6	1,377.3
No previous job during the year	62.2	211.2	139.6	281.7	492.9
Had a previous job during the year	333.6	569.5	143.2	314.9	884.5
Left a job during the year	491.7	902.8	389.7	706.3	1,609.1
Did not leave a job during the year	2,351.8	3,449.8	1,299.5	2,125.0	5,574.8

(a) Excludes second jobs of multiple jobholders.

**TABLE 2. DURATION OF CURRENT JOB, FEBRUARY 1975 TO FEBRUARY 1984**

Duration of job	Survey conducted in February—								
	1975(a)	1976(b)	1979(b)	1980(b)	1981(a)	1982(a)	1983(a)	1984(a)	
	—per cent—								
MALES									
Under 3 months	8.5	7.5	6.9	6.6	9.2	8.7	7.6	8.6	344.4
3 and under 6 months	4.2	5.2	6.9	5.3	5.6	5.8	4.0	4.4	177.8
6 and under 12 months	7.2	8.3	9.2	8.6	8.3	8.4	7.2	6.4	258.5
Total under 1 year	19.9	20.9	22.9	20.5	23.1	23.0	18.8	19.4	780.7
1 and under 2 years	13.1	11.4	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.2	13.0	10.1	407.2
2 and under 3 years	8.7	9.9	8.1	8.8	8.7	9.2	12.0	11.3	452.6
3 and under 5 years	11.8	15.0	14.9	14.2	14.1	14.1	16.0	16.2	651.1
5 years and over	46.5	42.8	41.9	43.9	41.6	41.5	40.3	43.0	1,727.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,019.5
FEMALES									
Under 3 months	11.8	8.8	8.0	7.8	11.3	10.7	9.0	10.2	249.4
3 and under 6 months	6.1	7.0	7.8	6.2	6.7	7.2	5.3	5.6	136.8
6 and under 12 months	11.6	11.5	11.8	11.4	10.8	10.0	9.0	8.6	210.4
Total under 1 year	29.5	27.3	27.6	25.3	28.8	28.0	23.3	24.5	596.6
1 and under 2 years	20.0	16.1	15.7	15.8	16.0	15.2	15.8	13.9	339.0
2 and under 3 years	11.0	13.6	10.7	11.2	9.6	10.7	14.4	12.7	310.6
3 and under 5 years	12.9	16.8	17.1	17.1	15.8	15.1	16.7	17.0	415.9
5 years and over	26.6	26.2	28.8	30.5	29.9	31.1	29.8	31.9	777.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2,439.9

(a) Refers to time in their current job of persons working at the time of the survey. (b) For persons in the survey who were working at the end of the previous calendar year, time in job held at end of previous calendar year.



**TABLE 3. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1984:  
NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES AND CHANGES IN LOCALITY  
( ' 000)**

Change in locality while with the same employer or in the same business	Had one employer, business	Had more than one employer, business				Total	Total
		Number of employers, businesses					
		2	3	4 and over			
Did not change locality	6,194.4	554.8	97.2	42.1	694.1	6,888.5	
Changed locality	231.0	40.6	13.8	10.1	64.5	295.4	
Number of changes—							
1	179.2	31.7	8.9	*	43.6	222.8	
2	21.4	*	*	*	8.9	30.3	
3	13.1	*	*	*	4.7	17.8	
4 and over	17.2	*	*	*	7.2	24.4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,425.4</b>	<b>595.4</b>	<b>111.0</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>758.5</b>	<b>7,183.9</b>	
Had a job at February 1984	5,789.3	532.7	95.2	42.2	670.0	6,459.3	
Had no job at February 1984	636.1	62.7	15.8	10.0	88.5	724.6	

**TABLE 4. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1984:  
NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES BY CURRENT AGE, LABOUR FORCE STATUS, INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION  
( ' 000)**

	Number of employers or businesses									
	Males					Females				
	1	2	3	4 and over	Total	1	2	3	4 and over	Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,883.5</b>	<b>364.9</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>4,352.6</b>	<b>2,541.8</b>	<b>230.5</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>2,831.3</b>
<i>Age group (years)—</i>										
15-19	310.3	54.6	10.1	6.4	381.5	289.2	45.7	10.2	*	348.6
20-24	477.7	72.7	17.8	9.3	577.4	415.7	67.8	11.2	4.8	499.5
25-34	1,008.3	120.9	24.7	11.1	1,164.9	669.0	62.2	12.4	4.9	748.5
35-44	880.3	66.9	10.3	*	961.6	592.8	38.7	6.2	*	639.8
45-54	680.9	37.0	*	*	725.0	380.7	13.1	*	*	396.9
55-59	287.0	8.3	*	*	297.4	118.0	*	*	*	120.3
60-64	159.0	*	*	*	163.5	52.7	*	*	*	53.7
65 and over	80.1	*	*	*	81.2	23.7	*	*	*	24.1
<i>Labour force status at February 1984—</i>										
Out of the labour force	143.0	10.1	*	*	157.9	295.2	14.4	*	*	314.9
Looking for work	138.1	25.6	6.6	5.1	175.3	59.8	12.6	*	*	76.5
Working	3,602.4	329.2	59.0	28.7	4,019.4	2,186.8	203.4	36.2	13.5	2,439.9
<i>Industry of current job—</i>										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	280.1	17.4	*	4.5	304.8	101.5	4.9	*	*	107.9
Mining; electricity, gas and water	206.5	9.7	*	*	217.9	23.0	*	*	*	25.6
Manufacturing	775.0	61.8	11.4	*	852.4	272.5	19.9	*	*	296.7
Construction	325.7	38.2	9.6	5.9	379.3	44.5	*	*	*	46.7
Wholesale and retail trade	612.6	82.6	12.3	*	711.2	498.8	50.2	7.8	*	559.8
Transport and storage; communication	375.8	24.5	*	*	406.6	87.2	5.5	*	*	94.4
Finance, property and business services	289.3	30.7	5.1	*	326.0	256.6	29.4	5.2	*	292.5
Community services	384.2	22.6	5.1	*	414.0	606.9	52.7	9.9	*	672.1
Public administration and defence	205.9	13.1	*	*	221.8	97.3	9.8	*	*	108.6
Recreation, personal and other services	147.3	28.7	5.7	*	185.4	198.5	27.1	6.5	*	235.5
<i>Occupation of current job—</i>										
Professional, technical, etc.	520.5	34.7	4.5	*	562.7	388.0	36.7	9.2	*	437.6
Administrative, executive and managerial	339.0	29.8	*	*	372.0	55.4	*	*	*	58.6
Clerical	302.9	18.6	*	*	325.9	770.4	75.9	13.3	*	862.1
Sales	222.1	37.9	7.6	*	268.0	281.2	32.5	*	*	320.2
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	324.3	22.8	*	4.9	356.0	104.0	5.6	*	*	110.6
Miners, quarry workers, etc.	30.4	*	*	*	33.7	*	*	*	*	*
Transport and communication	250.1	22.7	*	*	277.7	44.0	*	*	*	47.0
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	1,408.0	135.7	26.0	14.1	1,583.8	194.5	12.9	*	*	211.2
Service, sport and recreation	205.2	24.8	7.3	*	239.6	349.1	33.7	6.1	*	392.3

